

75
AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
COPPER TABLE:

CONTAINING
Two INSCRIPTIONS,

In the GREEK and LATIN TONGUES.

Discovered in the Year 1732,

NEAR
HERACLEA, in the BAY of TARENTUM,
in MAGNA GRAECIA:

By PHILIP CARTERET WEBB Esquire, FELLOW of the
ROYAL and ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES of LONDON.

Read at a Meeting of the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES of LONDON,
the 13 *December* 1759; and ordered to be printed.

LONDON,
Printed in the YEAR MDCCLX.

Dank Green

AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
COPPER TABLE



TWO INCHES
In the GREEK and LATIN TONGUES

Discovered in the Year 1734

NEAR

HERACLEA, in the BAY of TARENTUM
in MAGNA GRÆCIA:

By PHILIP CARTERET WEBB ESQ. Fellow of the
Royal and Antiquarian Societies of London

Read at a Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of London
the 15 December 1735; and ordered to be printed

LONDON
Printed in the Year MDCCLX

My Lord WILLOUGHBY of Parham,

THE Society, with their usual candour, will, I hope, forgive my trespassing on their time, for a few minutes.

The Commentaries of Mazochius (*a*) upon two large Tables of Copper discovered in the kingdom of Naples, in the year 1732, near Heraclea a town of Magna Graecia, which this Society received the 8th November 1759, from Don Francisco Valetta, Secretary to the Society for illustrating the Antiquities found at Herculaneum, merit the Society's serious attention: and we are greatly indebted to Mr. Valetta and Mr. Hollis, two of our body, by whose means this very valuable present was conveyed to the Society.

The respectable antiquity of the Tables, and the importance of the Inscriptions upon them which are the object of Mazochius's work, intitle them to the first place among any Greek or Roman antiquities of this kind hitherto discovered.

The first and most important of the Tables, is *broken into two*; the *first* piece of which is in England, the other is at Naples. It contains on one side a Greek Inscription, relating to lands sacred to Bacchus; on the other side is a Latin Inscription, containing part of a pandect or digest of Roman municipal laws.

(*a*) In folio, in two parts, containing 600 pages, besides the plates. Printed at Naples, in 1754 and 1755, and published in September 1758.

The second Table, which is at Naples, is engraved on one side only, and contains a Greek Inscription relating to lands belonging to the temple of Minerva, nearly of the same antiquity with the first. This Inscription is imperfect, the Table being mutilated, and broken off at the lower end.

Mazochius in this work, hath in several plates, given exact copies of the Greek and Latin Inscriptions of that part of these Tables which is at Naples, made with surprising care and exactness^(b). The Possessor of the British Table wishes Mazochius had had the like opportunity of copying, with the same exactness, that part which is in Britain.

Both these Tables were discovered in the year 1732, near Heraclæa in the Bay of Tarentum, in the Magna Graecia. The first part of the first Table, soon after its being discovered, was carried to Rome, and purchased there at a great price [*caro emptum* (c)] by Franciscus Ficoronius, a celebrated Antiquarian of that country. In 1735, it was brought by an Italian into England, and sold there by him, to Brian Fairfax Esquire, a commissioner of the customs, a lover of antiquities, and Fellow of this learned Society (d); soon after his death, it was purchased, by me, of his executors.

Mr. Mattaire, in the year 1736, published the Greek and Latin Inscriptions on Mr. Fairfax's Table, accompanied with a Commentary purely grammatical, which, it must be confessed, does no greater honour to the Table, than to the Grammarian.

Mattaire, in his preface to the Reader, says he had engraved a few Lines of each Inscription. "*Ex quo specimine literarum figura et portio facilius aestimetur.*" Upon comparing Mattaire's Plate with the Table, it appears, the size or proportion of the letters are not observed, and their form often mistaken. I have therefore, for the satisfaction of the curious, in the annexed plates N°. 1 and N°. 2, exhibited a *fac-simile* copy of a few of the first lines of both Inscriptions, of the exact size and form with the original.

(b) Mazoch. Prolog. c. v, vi. p. 5, 6.

(c) Mazoch. p. 4.

(d) Mazochius, p. 3, says, Mr. Fairfax bought it in Italy, and, on his return to England, carried it thither.—Mr. Fairfax never was in Italy.

In 1738, Franciscus Carolus Conradus a Civilian, republished these Inscriptions at Helmstad, with a long Commentary on the Roman Inscription. — Scipio Maffei soon after published it in the third Tome of his *Observation. Literar.* — and in 1740, the learned Muratorius inserted an *Exemplar* of both the Latin and Greek Inscriptions, which he had obtained from Ficoronus while the Table was in his possession, in the *Tomus Alter* of his *Thesaurus Inscriptionum*, p. 582 (e).

The Greek and Roman Inscriptions on such of the Tables as are at Naples, are now *first* correctly published by Mazochius, in the work which is so often commended in the present paper. The Neapolitan Tables were about the year 1748, purchased by his excellency *Carolus Guevara*, late minister of the king of Naples at the court of Portugal: Mr. Guevara with the assistance of Mazochius, and with an application as remarkable as laudable, made an exact and *fac-simile* copy of both the Neapolitan Tables. “Quovis deposito pignore decertamus, nusquam aliter, quam quo modo in impressis prelo tabulis exhibetur, in aere scriptum, idque non modo litera sed ne apice minus” (f). Mr. Guevara afterwards presented the original Tables to the king of Naples, in whose collection they are now deposited, among the antiquities discovered in Herculaneum.

The thickness of the Tables at Naples is about one third of an inch, the breadth 15 inches (g).

Mattaire in the preface to his Reader, by an inattention not easy to be accounted for, says, Mr. Fairfax's Table was near *an inch thick*, and one foot and an half, i. e. 18 inches *wide*. His words are “Tabulam ex aere, (si recte conjicio) Corinthio, (which is a mistake, it being of fine copper) Pollicis fere *crassitudine*, longitudine pedum *duorum et dimidii*, unius et *dimidii latitudine*.” — Whereas its exact length is one foot, eleven inches and $\frac{1}{2}$, and its thickness and breadth]

(e) Mazoch. p. 4.

(f) Mazoch. p. 5, 6, 7.

(g) Mazochius, p. 2, says, the Neapolitan Table, of which the British is a part, is *one* Neapolitan palm, and something more than *five* inches wide, and about one third of an inch thick.

are exactly the same, as the thickness and breadth of the Table at Naples (b).

This strange misrepresentation of the thickness and breadth of the *British* Table, so different from that of the *Neapolitan*, of which Mazochius, from *internal* evidence, was convinced it was originally a *part*, necessarily put the learned Neapolitan under very great difficulties.

He at first (p. 166. note 2.) endeavoured to account for this difference from the *different* growth of metals, *vegetatione metallorum*, and therefore supposes, that the *different parts* of the *first* Table, having for so many ages laid buried in strata of *different qualities*, "*diversimode vegetasse, eaque gratia nunc demum non posse con-
gruere.*"——Not satisfied with this philosophy, he, with more propriety, suspected that Mattaire's description might not be correct; and therefore calls upon the English Antiquarians to compare their Table with the account he had given of those at Naples, and to communicate the result of that comparison to the Literati at Naples. "*Verum cum quas Tabulas hic aere expressas habes, eae ne latum quidem capillum a modulis ipsius monumenti differant (nisi quantum ex chartae madefactae primum, deinde exsiccatæ, vicibus accidere variationis potuit) liberum Britannis eruditissimis erit, excussum Tabulae exemplum, quod hic repræsentavimus, cum aere suo comparare, ac pro sua humanitate, ecquid deprehensum fuerit, Neapolim nuntiare*" (i). This request I have endeavoured to comply with.

The Letters of the Greek Inscription, and several of the Roman are of that kind which Antiquarians call *Gemmatae*; they appear thicker or deeper at each *end*, than in the intermediate parts, owing to the manner in which they were cut or engraved, i. e. by first making a large dott at the extreme parts of the letter, and

(b) The exact *breadth* of the Neapolitan Table is ascertained by the *breadth* of Mazoch. Tab. I. Seg. 1, 2, 3. p. 252. So that after the care Mazochius mentions, p. 166, to have been used in taking off the exemplar of the Neapolitan Table, there cannot remain the least doubt of both parts of the Table being of the same *breadth*. This makes it unnecessary to reduce the Roman or Neapolitan palm to the foot of Great Britain, which might be liable to mistake and uncertainty.

(i) Mazoch. p. 166. n. (2).

then

then joining those dots by a line, not so deep, with the help of a straight ruler. — Instances of this sort of letters occur frequently on the coins of Philip of Macedon, and some of the Syrian and Aegyptian kings (*k*). The care and accuracy of the engraver of the Greek Inscriptions is so remarkable, "ut raro et vix usquam sculptoris viriculum quam levissime ab orthographia aberraverit." The same cannot be said of the Latin part, which abounds with the engraver's mistakes (*l*).

The aera or date of the Greek Inscriptions on these Tables, Mazochius, by a deduction which appears to be conclusive, ascertains to be about the 430th year of Rome; i. e. more than 300 years before the birth of Christ (*m*). This gives an antiquity to the Greek Inscription of more than 2060 years. The date of the Roman Inscription he fixes to be near about the time of passing the *Plotian* or *Julian* law, a period very interesting to the Roman Colonies: this was about the year of Rome 663, or 665, something more than 80 years before the Christian aera (*n*).

The *form* of several of the Greek characters on both Tables, is *singular* and *unusual*; differing remarkably from the most ancient Greek characters hitherto discovered: the two letters \vdash or \sqcap , Mazochius says, do not occur in any other ancient Inscription, save that the aspirate \vdash is to be seen on an ancient vase of Terra Cotta, in the collection of Felix Mastrilius, a man of quality at Nola, and on some coins of Heraclea, and other Greek colonies, situated on each side of the coast of Italy (*o*).

Mazochius (in a plate inserted p. 124.) hath exhibited the figures and shape of such of the letters in these Inscriptions, as differ from other ancient or modern Greek letters: a copy of this, for the satisfaction of persons who may not have an opportunity to peruse Mazochius's work, I have annexed in the Plate N^o. 3.

(*k*) Mazoch. p. 123.

(*l*) Mazoch. p. 136.

(*m*) Mazoch. p. 133, 134.

(*n*) Mazoch. p. 382. and p. 488, to 493.

(*o*) Mazoch. p. 7. and p. 122. § 2. and p. 126, to p. 130. and p. 112. note (82.)

The Greek Inscription of this Table is in the Doric dialect, and gives an account of the *dimensions, mensurations, and terms of leasing*, of a large territory of land belonging to the god Dionysius, or Bacchus, part of which had been encroached upon and taken from the temple, by private persons; which, by means of this survey and ad-measurement, was recovered back.—The Inscription on the other Table, which, by the names of the public officers, appears to be of nearly the same antiquity, is of the same nature, relative to lands the property of the temple of Minerva—(p).

I should intrude too much on the Society's time, were I to attempt to enumerate the many new and surprising helps these Inscriptions furnish for explaining the Grecian antiquity; the discovery of new towns, the forms of new letters, new words and terms of art, the names of office of new magistrates, are only a few among many other interesting particulars, which a careful inspection of these Greek Inscriptions and Mazochius's learned commentary will afford to the curious (q).

The Latin Inscription on the back of the first Table appears to be a part of a pandect or collection of the Laws, by which the municipals, or Romans who lived out of Rome, governed themselves; it is not complete: The rest of the pandect was probably contained in some other Tables not yet discovered.

All the ancient Tables or Laminæ of laws, that have been discovered before the present, are, in their nature, confined to one *single law* each; and Mazochius with great reason asserts, that this Table, which contains a part of the pandect of the municipal law, affords more real lights to the knowledge of antiquities than can be collected from all the Tables of Roman laws published by Sigonius, or any that have followed him (r). Of this, in the course of his commentary, he has given the most ample and interesting proofs, which justifies the veneration and opinion Mazochius, in several parts of his work,

(p) Mazoch. p. 140, 141. (q) Mazoch. p. 141. (r) Mazoch. p. 290, 291.

expresses for these Tables; that they are, *auro contra non cara, & quovis principe potentissimo digna* (s).

Mr. Guevara upon his becoming possessed of the *Neapolitan* Tables, was desirous of adding the *British* Table to them; and with that view, in the year 1753, he proposed to the present possessor to purchase it. This proposition was not then complied with, the present proprietor intending that this venerable remain of remote antiquity should never go out of Great Britain; he however then *offered* to let an exact or *fac-simile* exemplar be taken of it, in order that it might be published with the others at Naples. The not attending to this offer renders the work of Mazochius less complete and perfect than it might have been, if an accurate copy of the Inscriptions on the *British* Table, *in the original characters*, had been inserted in it.

It appearing, from what Mazochius mentions p. 166. and p. 385. that he was possessed of an apograph of the *British* Table, I expected to have found it engraved among his other plates, and suspected it's not being in the copy sent to the Society might be the error of the binder; Mazochius's words are, "*Specimen scripturae antiquae a Mattaire exhibitum praetermisi, quippe lectori supervacaneum; cui integras Tabulas Heracleenses quam exactissime ad aera autographa, in aes incisas, suis singulis locis contemplari licebit*" (t). But whatever Mazochius might, in 1753 or 1754 (when he wrote the passage last quoted, and about which time the offer for purchasing the *British* Table was making) intend or hope to do with respect to the publishing an exact copy of the Inscriptions on that Table; it appears, from the bookseller's advertisement relating to Mazochius's work, published in Sept. 1758, that the eight large plates inserted in the work, contained copies of the *Neapolitan* Tables only. "*Idem opus Tabulis pluribus in aere incisus instruitur: Inter has vero illae octo maximae tabulae quae aera ipsa, a sum-*

(s) Mazoch. p. 5. § 11. I had omitted, in the description of the Tables, their weight.—The *British* Table weighs 57 Roman pounds, the *Neapolitan* part of the same Table weighs 112 Roman pounds, and the *second* *Neapolitan* Table weighs 107 Roman pounds. Mazoch. p. 4.

(t) Mazoch. p. 144.

"mo ad imum *pari* prorsus *literarum dimensione formaque*, ad vivum
 "exhibent, quantilibet pretii sunt." — Now the *eight* large plates,
 which are of the same breadth as the Tables, relate only to those
 Tables that are at Naples.

But since Mr. Guevara's Tables came into the royal Neapolitan collection, his Neapolitan majesty now king of Spain, having expressed to his excellency Sir James Gray, his Britannic majesty's envoy and minister plenipotentiary at the court of Naples, a desire of adding the British Table to the others in his collection; the present possessor thought *it not decent* for him, whatever regard and affection he had for this Table, to refuse to comply with the wishes of so great a prince, and so eminent a patron and encourager of the liberal arts; to whom literature, and particularly those who cultivate the study of *antiquities* are so greatly and essentially indebted. I therefore in *September last*, by the intervention of *Sir James Gray*, made an offer of presenting the British Table to his Neapolitan majesty, now king of Spain; into whose possession it will be very soon delivered (*u*).

Your Lordship, and the Society, over which you with so much honour preside, will pardon the length of this paper; the singularity and importance of the subject, and the extreme scarcity of Mazochius's book, will, I flatter myself, plead my excuse.

PHILIP CARTERET WEBB.

Great QUEEN STREET,
 6 December, 1759.



(*u*) El Duque de Lofada having, in a letter from Zaragossa, dated 15 November 1759, signified his Catholic majesty's royal acceptance of the Table, it was on the 12th March, 1760, delivered to the Neapolitan minister in London, in order to its being sent to Naples, to be deposited in the king's royal collection of antiquities there.

F I N I S.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a historical document or manuscript. The text is arranged in approximately 10 horizontal lines across the upper half of the page. The script is highly stylized and difficult to decipher. The paper is aged and shows signs of wear, including stains and discoloration.

ΕΦΟΡΟΣ ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΣ
ΑΠΕΛΛΑΙΟΣ ΤΑΤΟΛΙΣ
ΕΞ ΤΡΙΤΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΩ
ΠΕΚΑΡΥΚΕΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΛΛ
ΑΙΠΕΛΤΑ ΔΑΙΜΟΣ
ΦΙΛΩΤΑΣ ΕΙΣΤΕΙΩ
ΤΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΣ ΤΩ ΠΥ

ΑΝΕΓΡΑΨΑΝΤΟΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΑΙ ΤΟΙΣ ΑΙΡΕΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΠΙ
ΦΙΛΩ ΝΥΜΟΣ ΤΩ ΠΥΡΕΚΛΑΤΟΛΛΩ ΝΙΟΣ ΤΗΡΑΚΛΕΙ
ΤΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΣ ΤΩ ΠΥΡΕΚΛΑΤΟΛΛΩ ΝΙΟΣ ΤΗΡΑΚΛΕΙ

ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΔΑΣ ΜΗΣ
 ΚΑΙ ΤΟΙΟΡΙΣΤΑ
 ΝΥΜΟΣ ΕΝ ΤΥΡΙΣΚΩ
 ΜΩΝΙΟΣ ΗΡΑΚΛΗΤΩ
 ΣΤΥΡΡΩ ΚΝΟΡΙΝΑΞ
 ΜΕΕΤΙΣΤΥΛΙΟΝ
 ΤΥΡΩ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΩ

ΕΠΙΤΩΣΧΩΡΩΣΤΩΣΗΑΡΩΣΤΩΣΤΩΔΙΟΝΥΣΩ
 ΑΚΛΗΤΩ ΔΑΙΜΟΣ ΤΥΡΡΩ ΦΙΛΛΤΑΣΗΕΤΙΕΙΩ
 ΕΤΕΙΜΑΞΑΝΚΑΙΣΥΝΕΜΕΤΡΗΣΑΝΚΑΙΕΜΕΡΙ

QVEM H. L. AD COS. PROFITEREI. OPORTEBIT. SEI. IS. QVOM. IVM.
NEGOTIA. CVRABIT. IS. EAFDEM. OMNIA. QVAE. EVM. QVOM. S. N.
OPORTEBIT. ITEM. ISDEM. QVE. DIEBUS. AD. COS. PRO FITEMINO.
QVEM. H. L. AD. COS. PROFITEREI. OPORTEBIT. SEI. IS. PVP. SEIVE. EAM. VII. E.
QVE. OMNIA. IN. IISDEM. DIEBUS. AD. COS. PRO FITEMINO. ITA. VT. EI. Q.
EST. H. L. PROFITEREI. OPORTERET.

T.II.

VM·PROFITEREI·OPORTEBIT·ROMAE·NON·ERIT·TVM·QVEI·EIVS
VS·NECOTIA·CVRABIT·SEI·ROMAE·ESSET·H·L·PROFITEREI
VM·ERIT·TVM·QVEI·EIVS·PVP·VT·VE·TVTOR·ERIT·ITEM·EAM·EM
EI·QVA·EQ·VIBVSQVE·DIBVS·EVM·EAMVE·SEI·PVP·VY·VE·MON

EST·H·L·PROFITEREI·OPORTEBIT

